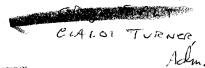
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Straight talk on SALT

CIA Director Stansfield Turner has set off a storm of indignation in the Senate with his testimony Monday that the U.S. will not have the full capability to monitor Soviet missile tests for another five years.

That capability was lost recently when the revolutionary regime in Iran ordered the closing of sensitive American listening and tracking stations along the Russian border.

Turner's statements directly contradict those of the White House, which has repeatedly assured the Senate that verification of Soviet missile development was the least of the problems that face the proposed SALT-2 treaty.

Complete confidence in American ability to verify Soviet compliance with the provisions of a strategic-arms accord is one of the cornerstones upon which SALT is built. Failure to deal frankly and forthrightly with this all-important issue could prove disastrous to President Carter's hopes for Senate acceptance of his SALT-2 package.